

## Case 3172

***Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 (Amphibia, Anura): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the widely used name *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 for a subtropical South American frog. The term *typica* was applied in 1948 to what was then supposed to be a 'forma' of *L. ocellatus* Linnaeus, 1758; under Article 45.6.4 of the Code the name *L. typicus* Cei, 1948 is available as a senior synonym of *L. chaquensis*, but it has never been used and its suppression is proposed.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Anura; LEPTODACTYLIDAE; *Leptodactylus*; *Leptodactylus chaquensis*; *Leptodactylus ocellatus*; frogs; South America.

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1. In a paper (Cei, 1948) on the seasonal reproductive behaviour of the Argentinian frog *Leptodactylus ocellatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) I described (pp. 308–312) two 'razas' (races) or 'formas', to which I applied, for purposes of discussion, the terms '*typica*' and '*reticulata*'. Other aspects of their reproductive behaviour were described the following year (Cei, 1949).

2. It subsequently became clear that the 'forma' which I had called '*typica*' is a species distinct from *L. ocellatus*, and in a taxonomic account (Cei, 1950) of this group of frogs I established the name *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 (p. 417) for the taxon. A further discussion of the taxonomy and distribution of the species is given in Cei (1980, pp. 348–352).

3. Nobody has ever used '*typica*' as a valid species-group name, or since Cei (1950) even cited it in the synonymy of *L. chaquensis*. In contrast, the name *L. chaquensis* has been used in a very large number of works, and I give here some examples.

Taxonomic works: Cei, 1980; Frost, 1985; De La Riva, Kohler, Lötters & Reichle, 2000;

Faunistic works: Lynch, 1971; Gallardo, 1979; Gudynas, 1984; Lavilla, Cruz & Scrocchi, 1995; De La Riva & Maldonado, 1999;

Biological and biochemical works: Erspamer, Roseghini & Cei, 1964; Barrio, 1966; Heyer, 1969; Duellman & Trueb, 1986; Roseghini, Erspamer, Falconieri Erspamer & Cei, 1986; Yanosky, Mercolli & Dixon, 1995.

A list of 41 works using the name *Leptodactylus chaquensis* Cei, 1950 has been given to the Commission Secretariat, and more could be supplied.

4. I have become aware, as a result of a message (August 2000) from Dr Darrel Frost, that the terms '*typica*' and '*reticulata*' which I had used in 1948 (see para. 1 above) to refer to two supposed 'formas' (hence their feminine endings) of

*Leptodactylus ocellatus* are, under Article 45.6.4 of the Code, deemed to be available names established at subspecific rank (contrary to my then intention). The name *typica* (or *typicus*) Ceí, 1948 is thus a senior synonym of the specific name of *L. chaquensis* Ceí, 1950. However, since *L. chaquensis* has had very extensive usage but nobody has ever used (or even published) the combination *L. typicus* it would be very confusing now to introduce the latter name.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *typica* Ceí, 1948, as published in the combination *Leptodactylus ocellatus* forma *typica*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *chaquensis* Ceí, 1950, as published in the binomen *Leptodactylus chaquensis*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *typica* Ceí, 1948, as published in the combination *Leptodactylus ocellatus* forma *typica* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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